

# CommonPassion-AGNT Group Coherence Study

at the

## AGNT Leadership & Advisory Council meeting

October 4, 2007  
Malibu, California

### OVERVIEW

This study of human group coherence was conducted by [www.CommonPassion.org](http://www.CommonPassion.org) and The Association for Global New Thought ([www.AGNT.org](http://www.AGNT.org)). One day of AGNT's annual leadership and advisory council meeting was dedicated to studying the effects of certain group activities on a random event generator (REG), as a partial indicator of group coherence. The activities for the 35 participants (ministers and spiritual directors) ranged from listening to sacred music or presentations on various subjects, to guided meditations, physical activity, laughter, games and watching emotionally stimulating documentaries. The REG was operating continuously throughout the day. Each segment was between 15 and 30 minutes, with 15 minute breaks approximately every 60 to 90 minutes.

The hypothesis was that certain activities would create greater group coherence than others, and thus show a significant correlation with the REG activity, explained in more detail below and in Appendix A. For instance, meditation might be more coherence-engendering than listening to a technical presentation.

Human group coherence is in itself interesting if a correlation is shown with physical or quantum processes. In other words, when humans come together in certain ways, at very subtle levels, it appears that physical matter – both animate and inanimate – is persistently influenced. This non-local communication between people, and interactions of the human mind and heart with physical systems, appears to be amplified when people in groups become more coherent, within themselves and between each other.

This human coherence effect on physical matter has been measured by Princeton's Global Consciousness Project, a global network of computers established to study this effect. This rigorous scientific endeavor shows significant correlations and influences between collective mind and matter, with odds against this phenomena occurring by chance currently at 1,000,000 to 1.

This same effect was empirically validated in a series of social studies conducted in Washington DC. These studies showed a significant reduction in violent crimes when groups of people performed a specific type of mental focus called transcendental meditation. *The performance of the same mental activity by each member of the group created a special form of social coherence, which resulted in a sympathetic response in non-involved members of the Washington DC community.* In other words, as the group of meditators became more coherent and harmonious within and amongst themselves, this influenced others in the city to also behave in a more harmonious, socially coherent manner, resulting in noticeably fewer crimes. Apparently – and speculatively – social

harmony increased as a result a small group of meditators became coherent amongst and between themselves.

This “peace technology” work has 50 replications and 19 published research studies. It has significantly furthered the knowledge required to quantify and apply positively-intentioned coherence toward social harmony, and has *immense* implications for humanity.

While it is difficult to draw definitive conclusion based on the one-day study – the subject of this report – some interesting observations and trends seemed apparent that can be applied in community and global applications of collective consciousness activities:

- When the activities drew participants to focus in heart and mind on the same thing, it seems that coherence increased, as evidenced by the REG deviating from its expected output..
- Physical activity combined with group heart-mind focus seems to show greater correlation with the REG’s deviation from expected outcomes.
- Relaxation and shared “easing” or increasing of focus also seemed to create correlated activity in the REG output, as can be viewed in the graphs below at the beginning of every break and the beginning of each segment.
- As the group’s interest waned, it seems that the group coherence also did.
- The activities that seemed to generate the greatest trends in deviation from expected outcomes in the REGs were related to: high emotional activity (joy, empathy, sadness), physical activity (laughter, frivolity), and intense, shared focus (meditation, learning, shared interest).

## DEFINITIONS

**Random Event Generator (REG):** An REG is a device designed to produce random events, such as a random pattern of zeros and ones. The device used in this study measures the electrical effects driven by quantum events. An easier way to understand this action is to view the REG as an electronic coin-flipper, producing a random series of “heads” and “tails.” REGs are often used in consciousness-related research because mind-matter effects have often been observed in its data, and because it makes statistical calculations very straight-forward. Human intention and coherent group activities have been correlated with a deviation from the expected random outcome in REGs. A more detailed explanation of REGs is presented in **Appendix A**.

**Coherence:** Coherence refers to the characteristics of a system wherein the parts possess a logical, orderly, and aesthetically consistent relationship with each other. In optical physics this refers to the difference we notice between an intensely focused laser beam where the photons are aligned in phase, and an incandescent light bulb spreading its light

in all directions randomly. In human experience, we *feel* coherence during Sunday service sharing a spiritual connection through song and prayer, at sporting events rooting for our favorite team, while collectively mourning the loss of a cherished public figure like Princess Diana or Mahatma Gandhi, and when we are engrossed in media coverage of manmade or natural disasters.

**Correlation:** the relationship between two variables during a period of time, especially one that shows a close match between the variables' movements. In consciousness-related research, we can show that a correlation exists between the group activity and the activity and behavior of the REG. This correlation is shown statistically as the probability of this correlation occurring by chance, but does not necessarily imply a causative influence.

**Statistically Significant:** In statistics a result is called **statistically significant** if it is unlikely to have occurred by chance. "A statistically significant difference" simply means there is statistical evidence that there is a difference; it does not mean the difference is necessarily large, important or significant in the common meaning of the word.

Significance levels show how likely a result is due to chance. The most common level, .95, is a value that means something is good enough to be believed. This means that the finding has a 95% chance of being true. However, this value is also used in a misleading way. No statistical analysis will show "95%" or ".95" to indicate this level. Instead it shows ".05," meaning that the finding has a five percent (.05) chance of *not* being true, which is the converse of a 95% chance of being true.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

*Excerpted from the [www.CommonPassion.org](http://www.CommonPassion.org) site, "Evidence"*

#### **"As Mass Mind Moves, So Does Matter"**

Dean Radin, PhD,  
*Entangled Minds and The Conscious Universe.*

Imagine going to Las Vegas and playing craps. Instead of everyone at the table hoping for a different roll of the dice, you all agree what number you want to see. Believe it or not, this might have a subtle influence on the probability of those intended numbers occurring. This ability to influence random events has been studied for over 75 years, according to Dean Radin, PhD, author of *Entangled Minds* and *The Conscious Universe*.

Now imagine having dozens of computers spread around the world whose job it is to roll electronic dice continuously, creating a steady stream of random events. Do you think that a group of people around the world could meditate on becoming more coherent as a group, calming themselves very deeply without falling asleep, and that human coherence could make those random dice-rolls not so random?

What would you say if it doesn't even require that much intention; that all it takes is an event that captures the collective attention, like the death of Princess Diana, a tsunami disaster broadcast on every TV station, or the tragedy of September 11, 2001? Dr. Roger Nelson, retired Princeton University professor, heads the Global Consciousness Project. (<http://noosphere.princeton.edu>). Since 1998 this project has been running a network of random event generators distributed around the world. When actual events of world interest happen, a change of the random numbers to non-random occurs, which cannot be explained through traditional physics. Over 200 events have been evaluated, from natural disasters to the death of celebrities to global meditations, and have shown that as humans become more coherent, it appears that matter does too, with odds against this phenomenon occurring by chance at over 1,000,000 to 1.

## RESULTS

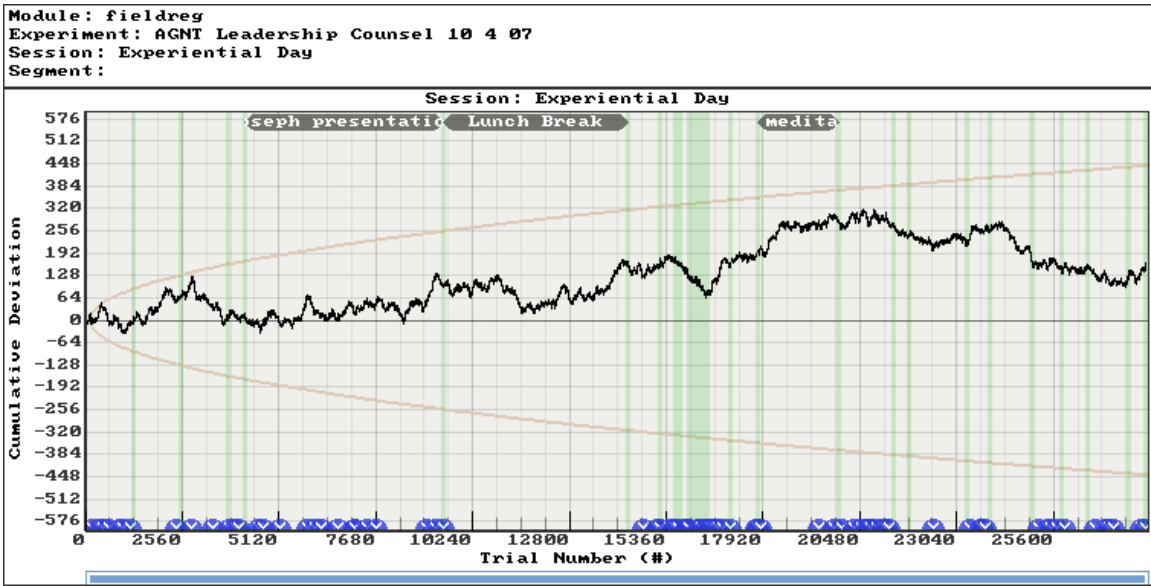
The following twenty-two graphs show the REG output for various segments, each corresponding to a certain type of activity during the day of study, described in the graph and annotated below the graph.

Here's how to interpret the graphs:

Immediately above the graph is a brief statement about what activity was occurring during that segment. Some comments are added below the graph to help understand what was occurring at various times within the segments.

The jagged black line presents the cumulative deviation from chance expectation (the horizontal black line at "0" deviation). Truly random data would produce a jagged line with no slope, wandering up and down around the horizontal "0" line. The brown, smooth curve lines above and below the "0" line show the 0.05 probability envelopes that help to define significant versus chance excursions.

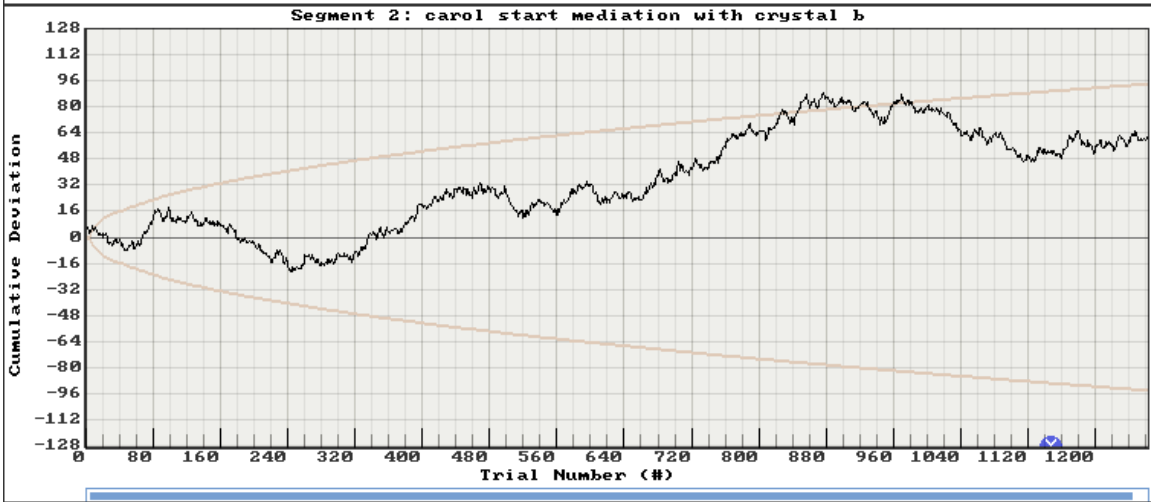
Even though only certain time segments show statistically significant correlations between the REG activity and the group activity, most segments show clear trends in the REG activity, especially at the beginning of each segment where attention and interest seems highest.



Graph of full day of activities.



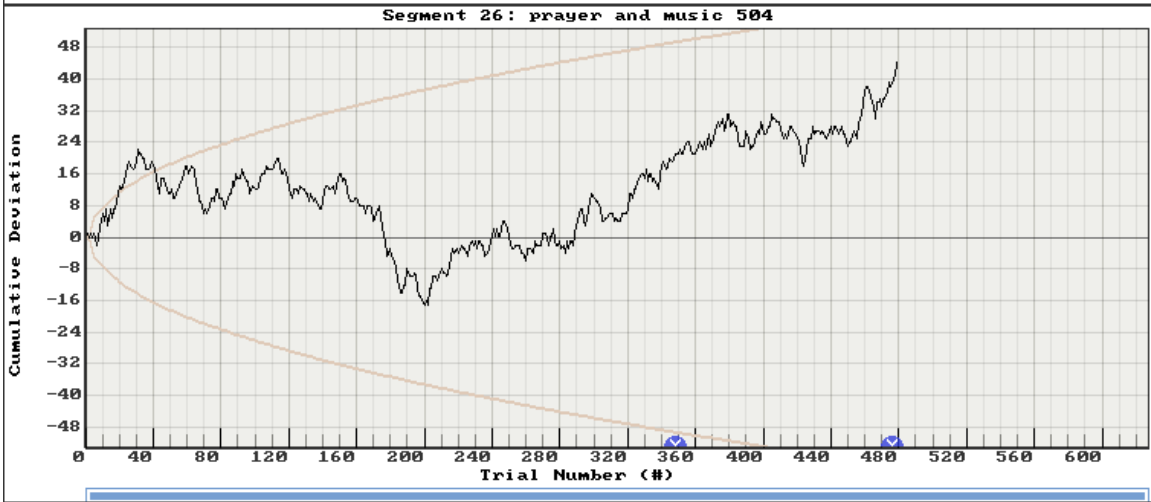
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Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 2) carol start mediation with crystal b



Module: fieldreg  
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Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 3) 10 05 break



Module: fieldreg  
Experiment: AGNT Leadership Counsel 10 4 07  
Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 26) prayer and music 504



Module: fieldreg  
Experiment: AGNT Leadership Counsel 10 4 07  
Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 5) Joseph presentation



Module: fieldreg  
Experiment: AGNT Leadership Counsel 10 4 07  
Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 7) 1 23 End of lunch start my explanat



Module: fieldreg  
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Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 8) Ricki Beckwith music 1 37





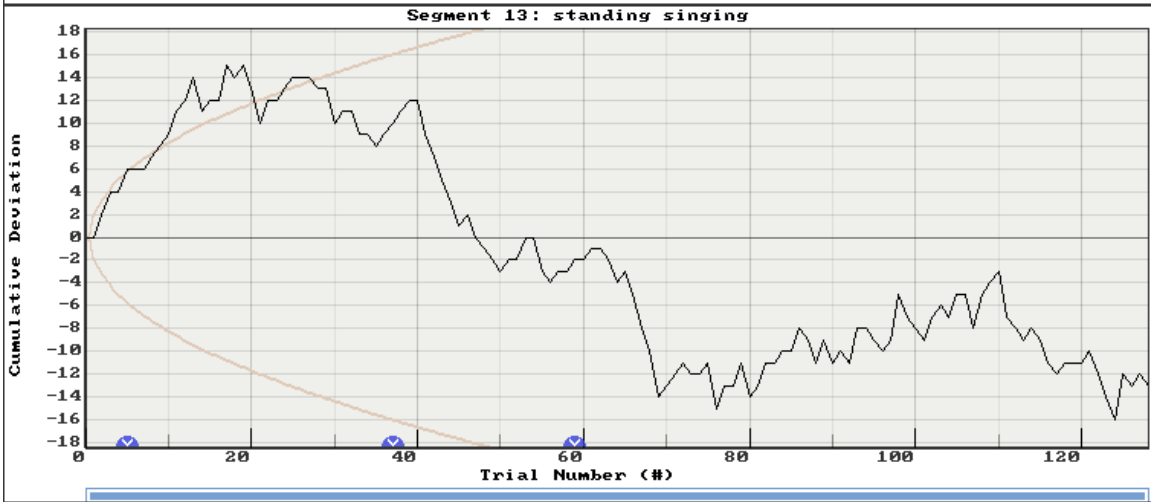
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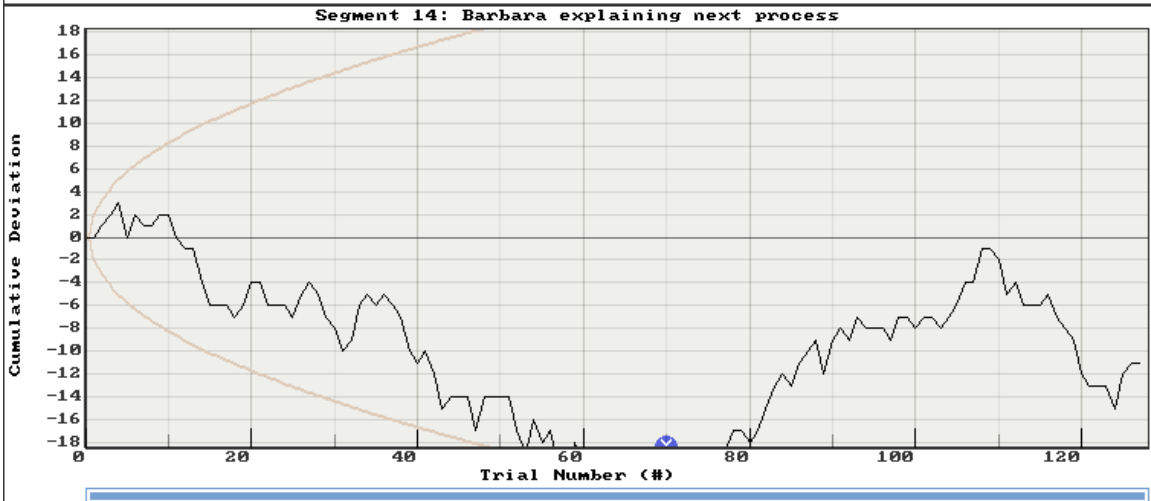
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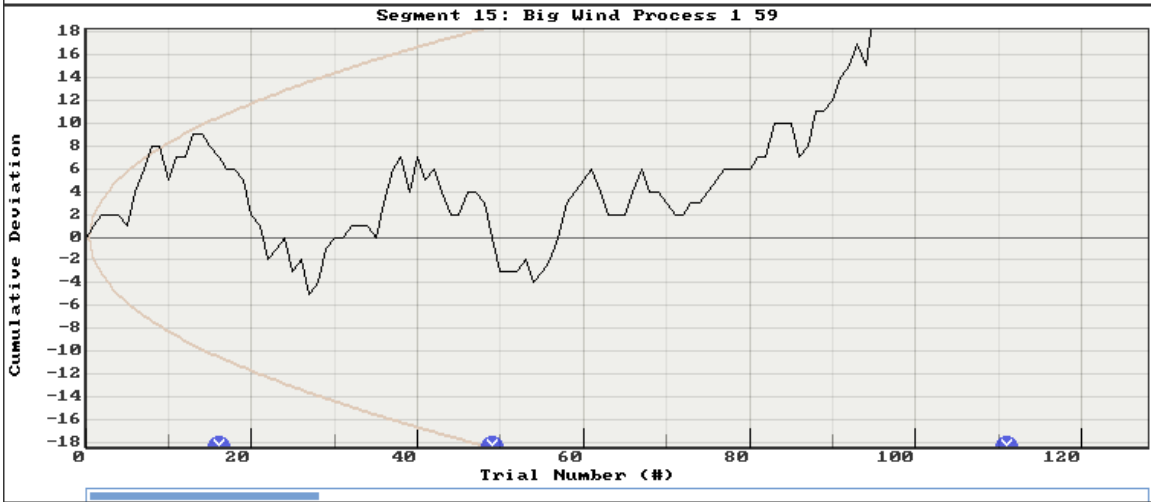
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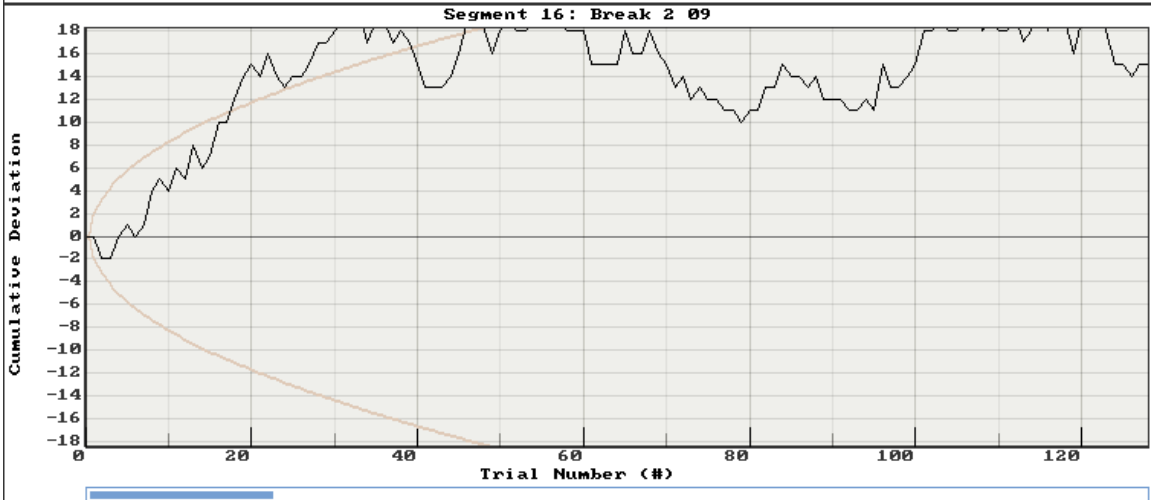
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Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 14) Barbara explaining next process



Module: fieldreg  
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Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 15) Big Wind Process 1 59



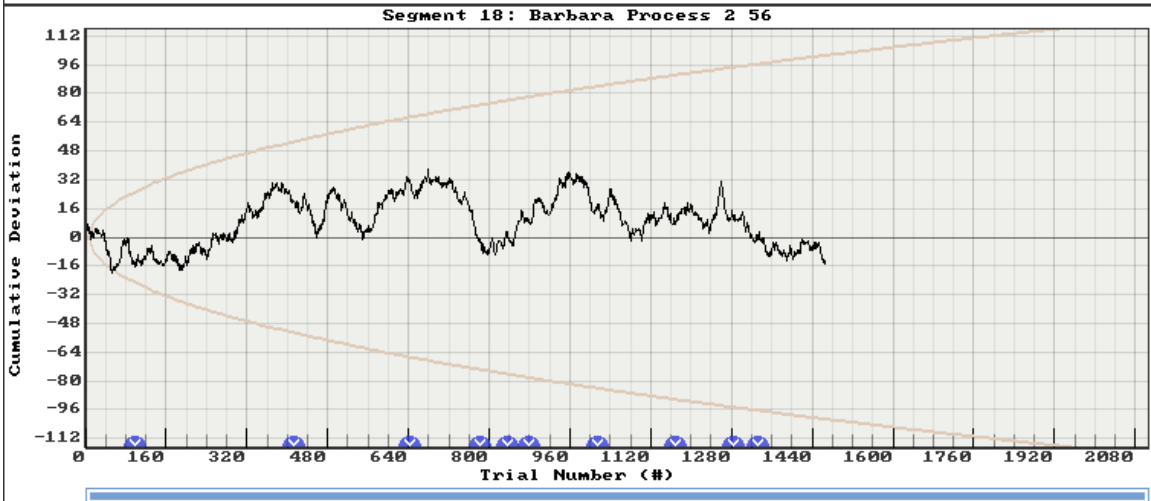
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Segment: 16) Break 2 09



Module: fieldreg  
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Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 17) Christian meditation 2 21



Module: fieldreg  
Experiment: AGNT Leadership Counsel 10 4 07  
Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 18) Barbara Process 2 56



Module: fieldreg  
Experiment: AGNT Leadership Counsel 10 4 07  
Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 20) argentina spoken meditation 328



Module: fieldreg  
Experiment: AGNT Leadership Counsel 10 4 07  
Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 21) beanie baby circle



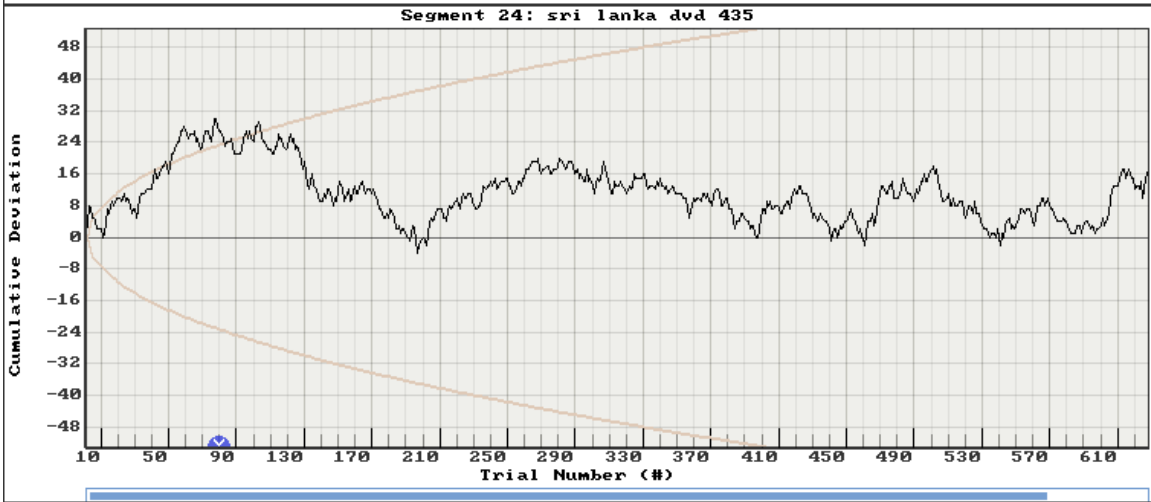
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Session: Experiential Day  
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Module: fieldreg  
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Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 23> 4 22 start humanitarian dvds



Module: fieldreg  
Experiment: AGNT Leadership Counsel 10 4 07  
Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 24> sri lanka dvd 435



Module: fieldreg  
Experiment: AGNT Leadership Counsel 10 4 07  
Session: Experiential Day  
Segment: 25> keith malawi dvd 4 45



### **What is an REG?**

REG is an acronym that stands for "Random Event Generator." It is a device used in the scientific study of consciousness-related phenomena, particularly because mind-matter effects have often been observed in its data, and because it makes statistical calculations very straight-forward. It is also an electronic device, which allows it to be interfaced with computers, for computerized applications and data collection.

It is useful to think of the REG as an electronic coin flipper. Just as a flipped coin will land in a random heads or tails position, so will the REG produce a random binary outcome—although instead of heads or tails, it produces a 1 or a 0. Each 1 or 0 is referred to as an event; hence Random Event Generator. Unlike a coin flipper, however, the REG is a quantum mechanical device: not affected by normal external physical forces, and fundamentally random.

REGs are used for studying consciousness-related phenomena because all of these factors make them superior to other devices or methods. Their true randomness eliminates the concern that experimental outcomes might be predicted, instead of effected by consciousness. Their binary nature allows users to deal with known statistical distributions, and to measure any "anomalous" change in the distribution with simple statistical techniques. Results from trials can be seen in real-time with computers, then stored and graphed in many different ways.

### **How Does It Work?**

An REG measures electrical effects which are driven by quantum events. According to modern physics, it is fundamentally impossible to predict the outcome of quantum events, even with knowledge of past outcomes. While the REG does output non-quantum 1s and 0s, these are representations of quantum events, extrapolated by quantum tunneling into binary outcomes. So when the output of a REG is examined statistically, these binary events are seen to behave in perfectly random ways, with an equal ratio of 1s to 0s. In other words, the REG is an extremely refined and reliable scientific tool whose output is fundamentally unpredictable.

The mind, however, seems able to affect the outcome of the Random Event Generator. As rigorously demonstrated by twenty-eight years of Princeton studies, when a person or persons attempt to influence the REG to produce more 1s or 0s, it seems as though "willpower" alone is enough to achieve such an effect. Operators can create statistically significant distortions in the REGs output that correspond to their intentions.

The mechanism by which this works is still unknown, though it has been the subject of speculation. Some contend that quantum mechanics can explain the phenomenon; others that a more complicated and less understood process is occurring. In any case, what's at issue is nothing less than the nature of reality, and the role of consciousness within it. The REG allows us to become a pioneer in exploring these phenomena.



### **Analogy: Electronic Coin Flipper**

To be able to accurately correlate the REG outcome to intention or group coherence, we must first think back to the design and behavior of the Random Event Generator. As was mentioned before, the Random Event Generator used in these experiments is designed to produce a truly random output that can take on two states. Let us now refer to them as 1 and 0, which correspond to the idea of heads and tails respectively. If the device behaves as we expect it to, about 50% of the outputs that it produces should be 1s and the other 50% should be 0s. At this point, it is important to remember that we are not saying that the output will always consist of perfect 50/50 mix, but rather that it should follow a known statistical distribution with these properties.

If this sounds confusing, imagine that you have a fair coin. Even though any given coin flip has a 50% chance of landing on heads or tails, you can never be 100% certain of the next outcome. If you flip the coin 10 times, you might find that you have 3 heads and 7 tails, or perhaps 6 heads and 4 tails. In either case, these outcomes would be well within your expectation. Now imagine that you flip the coin 100 times; you wouldn't be surprised if you found 54 heads and 46 tails, but you might think that something strange was going on if the coin produced 80 heads and 20 tails. If you flipped the coin a million times and it produced 800,000 heads and 200,000 tails, you would almost certainly feel as though the coin was not behaving as it should.

This exact logic applies to the Random Event Generator. The device is designed to produce output that is statistically perfect and unpredictable, and when run in a calibration mode, its output is shown to be exactly what we would expect from a balanced coin. The interesting result is that when subject to the influence of human intention or group coherence for a large number of outcomes, the researchers found that the devices produces results more like that of an unbalanced coin. More specifically, when operators were trying to produce a "heads" outcome, it was found that the generator produced more 1s that would be expected by chance or calibrations. When the operators shifted their intention to "tails", the opposite occurred. In the Global Consciousness Studies, large scale human coherence, ie, focused attention, intention or shared thoughts and feelings, also produced deviations from the expected outcomes.